

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A process for producing propylene oxide, which comprises the following steps:

oxidation step: a step of obtaining cumene hydroperoxide by oxidizing cumene;

epoxidation step: a step of obtaining propylene oxide and cumyl alcohol by reacting cumene hydroperoxide obtained in the oxidation step with propylene ~~in the presence of an epoxidation catalyst~~; and

conversion step: a step of obtaining cumene by subjecting cumyl alcohol obtained in the epoxidation step to hydrogenation-containing reaction and recycling the cumene to the oxidation step,

wherein a concentration of 1,2-epoxy-2-phenylpropane contained in a reaction mixture after the oxidation step, is 1 % by weight or less.

2. (currently amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the conversion step comprises the following steps:

dehydration step: a step of obtaining α -methylstyrene by dehydrating cumyl alcohol obtained in the epoxidation step in the presence of a dehydration catalyst; and

hydrogenation step: a step of obtaining cumene by hydrogenating α -methylstyrene in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst to obtain cumene, and recycling the cumene to the oxidation step.

3. (original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the conversion step comprises the following step:

hydrogenolysis step; a step of obtaining cumene by subjecting cumyl alcohol obtained in the epoxidation step to hydrogenolysis in the presence of a hydrogenolysis catalyst, and recycling the cumene to the oxidation step as the raw material.